Plex is a media management system that organizes your entire collection of movies, music, and photos making them available to all media devices in the connected home and remotely accessible by Internet connected devices.

With support for streaming music, high definition video, and photo sharing, Plex is an excellent way to centralize and share all of your rich media content stored on a Drobo. This not only provides significantly increased throughput supporting multiple simultaneous streams, but also ensures that data is stored in a redundant manner protecting content from data loss due to a potential hard drive failure.

Like a Drobo, Plex does not require advanced IT knowledge to configure and interface with the devices. Utilizing standards based DLNA technology; Plex offers out of the box support for nearly all network enabled televisions and media devices. Although DLNA is supported for simple integration, for the best user experience, it's recommended to use a Plex capable client stored in the best format for that platform (iOS, Android, Roku3, Samsung SmartTV, etc…). By creating media content optimized for mobile streaming you can easily access your media on the go with MyPlex. Using MyPlex you can have access to your content stored on the Drobo streaming directly to your mobile devices.

While the Plex Media Server core application is compatible with all Drobos, it previously required a host computer. With the introduction of Plex for Drobo Apps, connected devices can now stream directly from the Drobo 5N.

NOTE - *Plex supports multiple video, audio, and photo formats. For full details on supported formats, visit their website. There are additional features that Plex offers that will not be covered in this guide.*

Topics

- Create a Plex Media Share
- Enabling DroboApps and Installing Plex Media Server
- Configuring Plex Media Server
- Plex Media Center

What You Will Need

- Drobo 5N
- The latest Drobo Dashboard and firmware release
  http://www.drobo.com/start/drobo-5n-start.php
- Plex Media Center (Optional/Recommended)
  http://www.plexapp.com/getplex/index.php

Prerequisites

This document assumes that a Drobo storage device has been installed, configured, and is discoverable by the Drobo Dashboard. If these steps have not been completed, follow the *Getting Started Guide* available at the URL below.

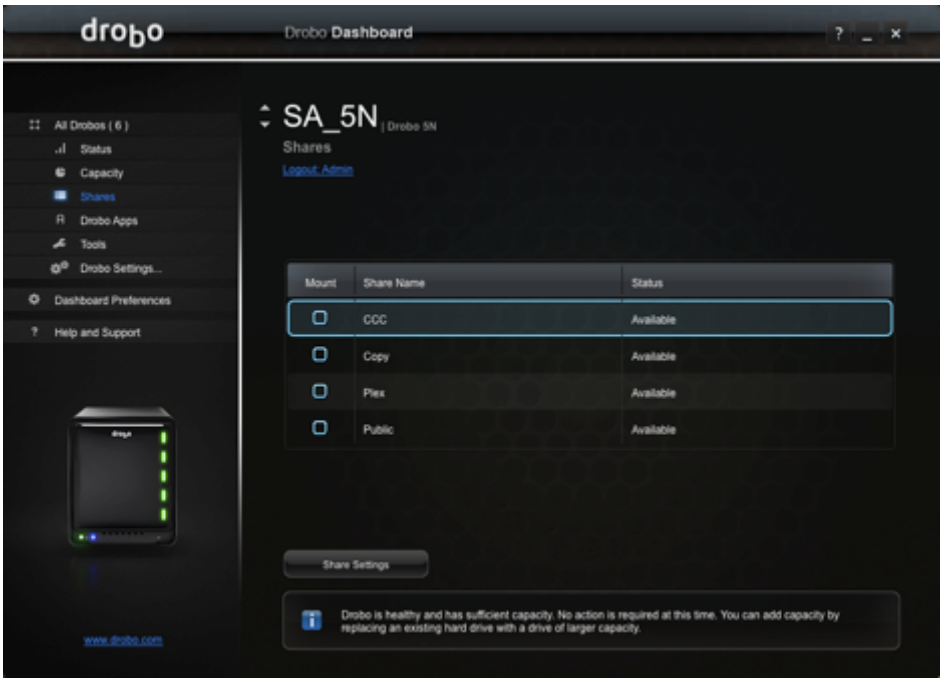
http://www.drobo.com/start/download/doc/Drobo-5N-getting-started-en.pdf

Create a Plex Media Share

STEP 1

Load the Drobo Dashboard and select the 5N.

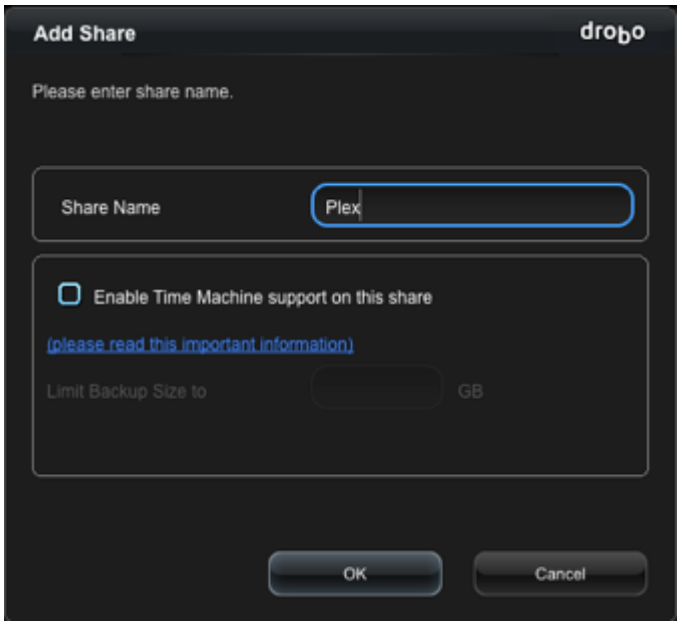
STEP 2



On the **Shares** tab, click the **Share Settings** button to create a network share that will be used with Plex.

NOTE *– While Plex does not require a dedicated share, it is recommended. This configuration limits what data will be automatically indexed and added to Plex.*

STEP 3



Enter a name for the share that will be used by Plex.

In this example the share name **Plex** will be used.

Click **OK** to continue.

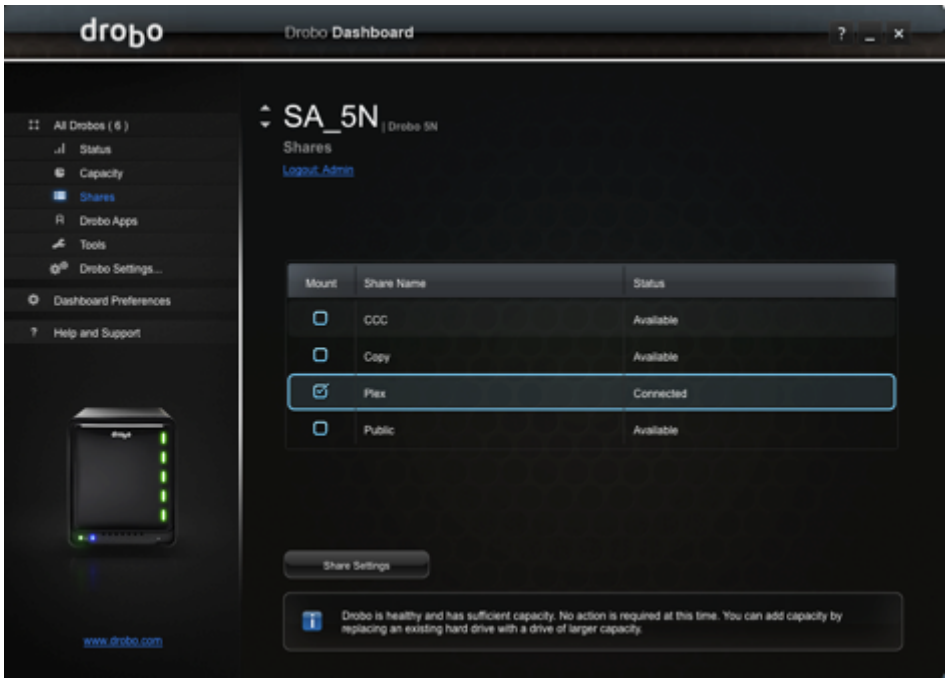
STEP 4

Configure user access for the Plex share and click **OK** to complete the wizard.

NOTE *– User access only affects share level access.*

Plex does not include user level access for streaming clients. All streaming clients can see all data added to Plex.

STEP 5



Click on the newly created share to map it to the host computer.

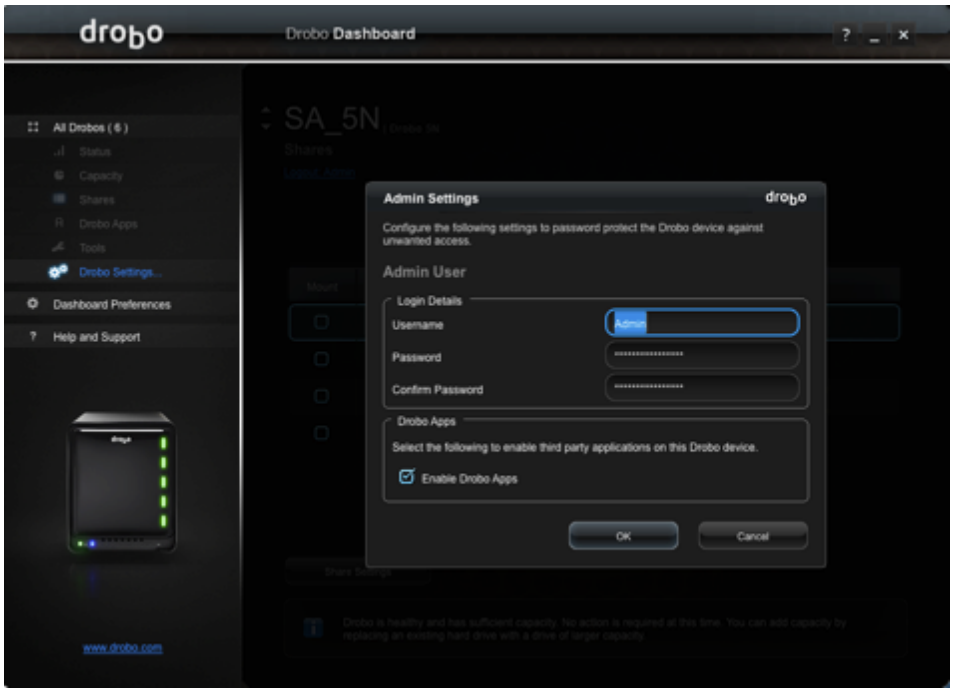
Copy video, audio, and image content to the newly created Plex share.

It is recommended that a separate folder is used for each media type.

***NOTE** – Drobo Dashboard on Windows hosts will prompt for a drive letter before mapping a share.*

Enabling DroboApps and Installing Plex Media Server

STEP 1



Click the **Drobo Settings** link in the left column and then select **Admin Settings.**

Select the **Enable Drobo Apps** checkbox and then click **OK**.

Once DroboApps support has been enabled, a list of available applications will be automatically populated.

STEP 2

drobo
Drobo Dashboard
SA_5N
Drobo Apps
Logout Admin
Drobo Apps enables you to run applications on your Drobo. Please select an application to install or to view other available actions.
Status and Actions
Copy
All Files Up To Date
Plex
Application is not installed
Install
Dropbear
Application is running
All Drobos (6)
Status
Capacity
Shares
Drobo Apps
Tools
Drobo Settings...
Dashboard Preferences
Help and Support
Drobo is healthy and has sufficient capacity. No action is required at this time. You can add capacity by replacing an existing hard drive with a drive of larger capacity.

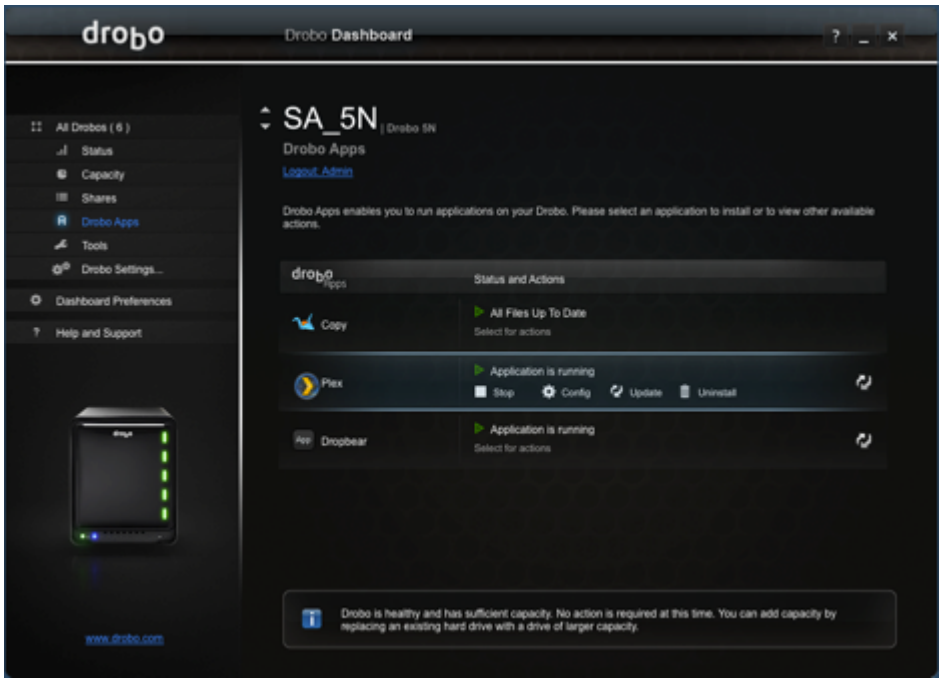
Click the **Drobo Apps** link in the left column and then select **Plex** from the list of Drobo Apps.

Click the **Install** button to begin the installation process.

Plex will be automatically downloaded from Drobo and installed on the 5N.

Configuring and Using Copy

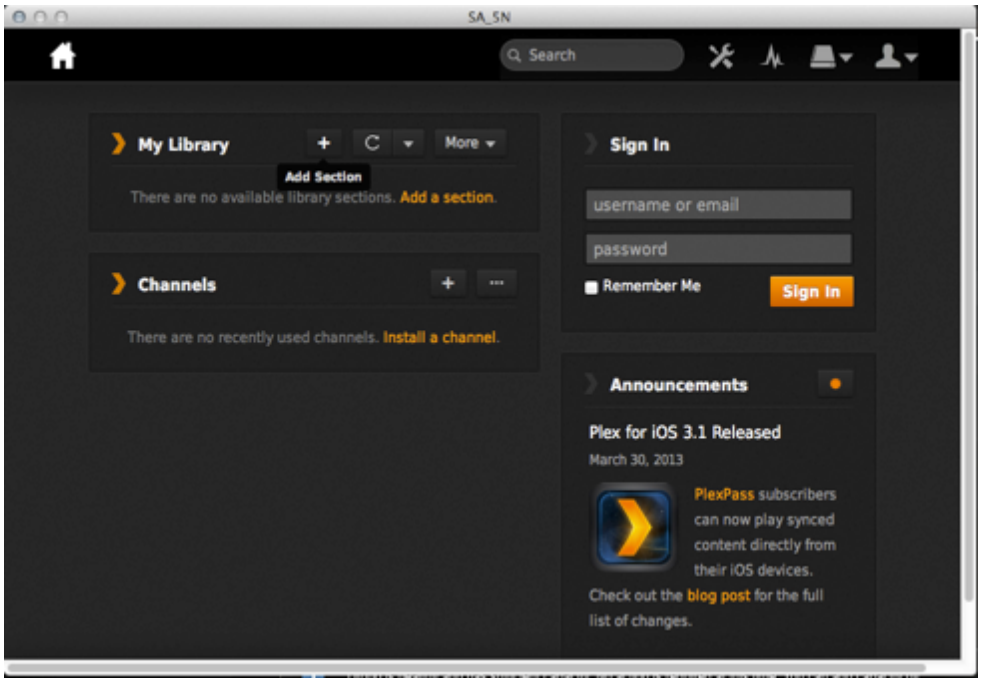
STEP 1



Once the Plex installation has completed, click the Config icon to begin the initial configuration process.

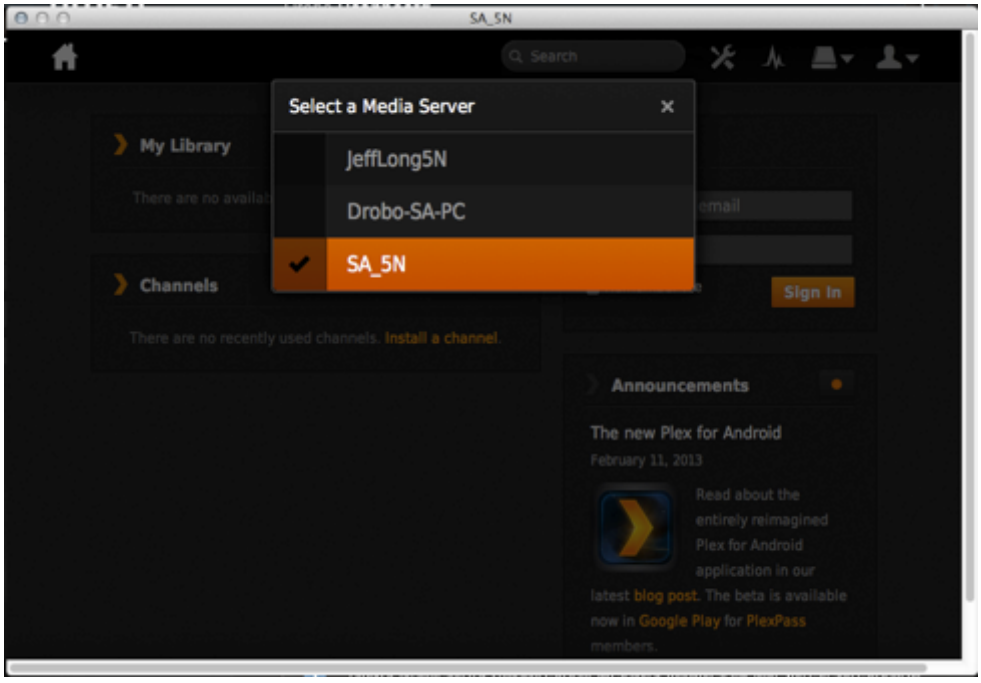
A browser window will be will launched and the Plex Media Server interface loaded.

STEP 2



To add media to the Plex library, click the **+ (Add Section)** button under **My Library**.

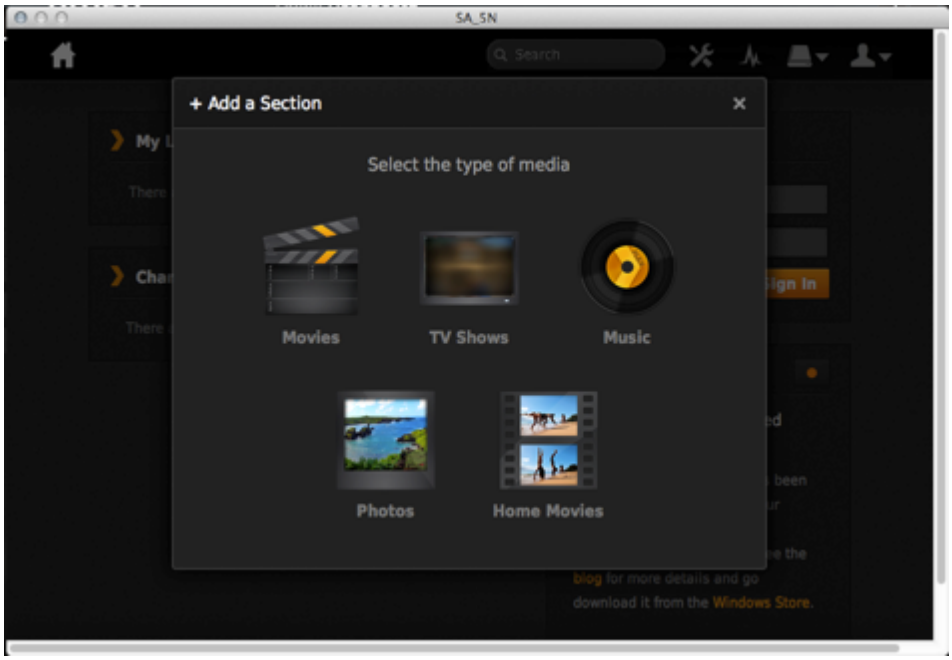
STEP 3


SA_5N
Search
Select a Media Server
JeffLong5N
Drobo-SA-PC
SA_5N
My Library
Channels
There are no recently used channels. Install a channel.
Sign In
Announcements
The new Plex for Android
February 11, 2013
Read about the entirely reimagined Plex for Android application in our latest blog post. The beta is available now in Google Play for PlexPass members.

Select the Drobo from the list of Media Servers.

***NOTE** – If no other Plex servers exist on the network, the Drobo will be automatically selected.*

STEP 4

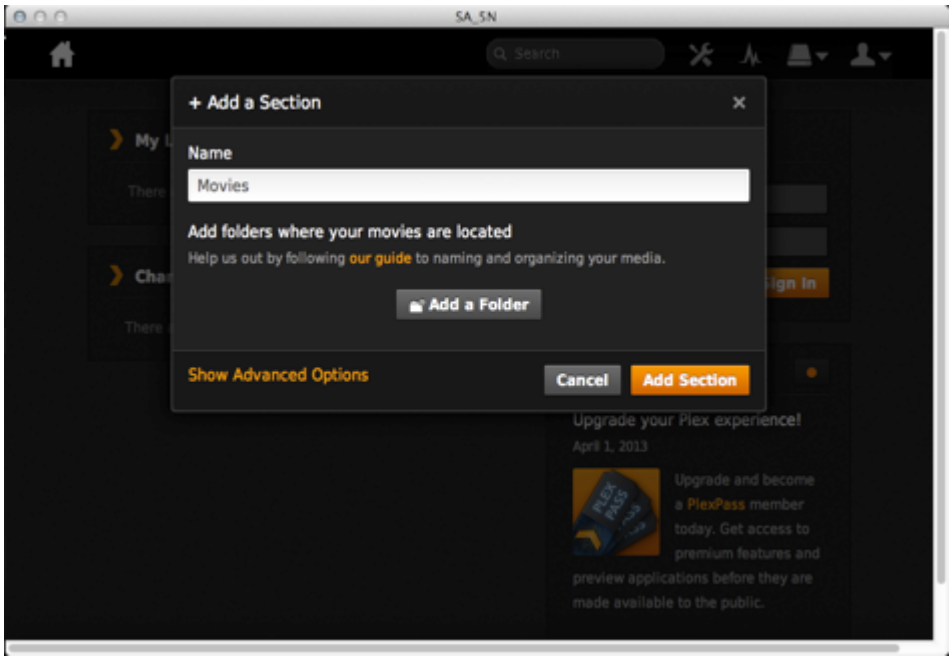


Select the media type that will be added to the section.

***NOTE** – This How-To only covers adding Movies to Plex.*

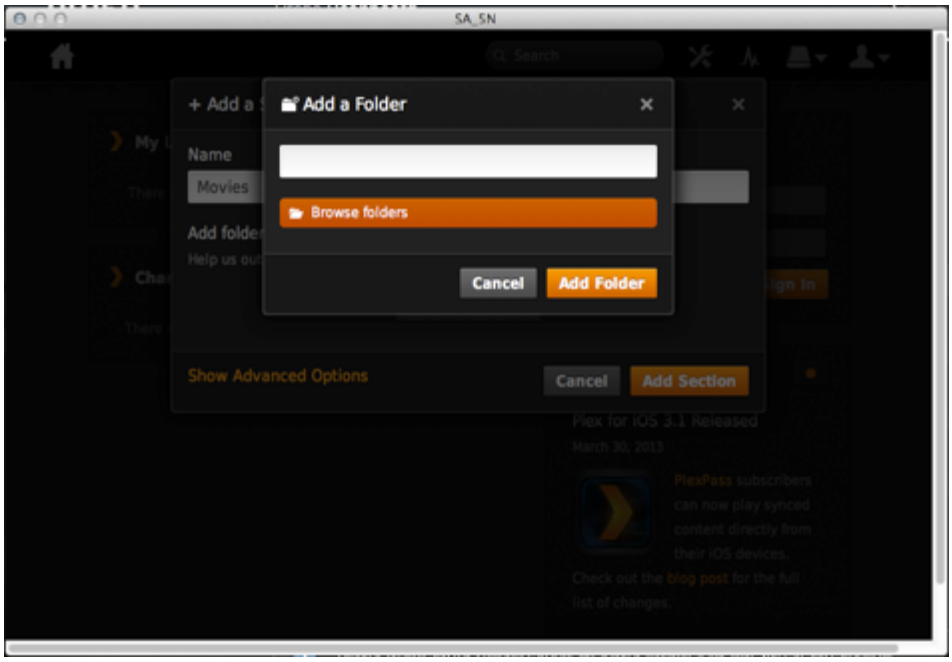
Repeat the steps in this section to add other types of media or additional locations of the same media type.

STEP 5



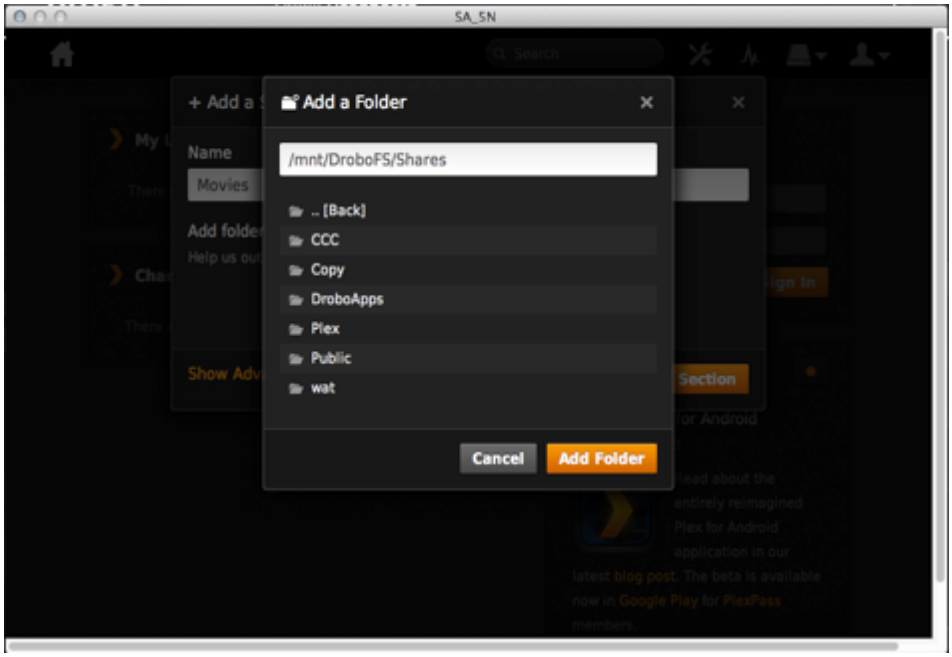
Enter a description in the **Name** field that characterizes the content to be added and then click **Add a Folder**.

STEP 6



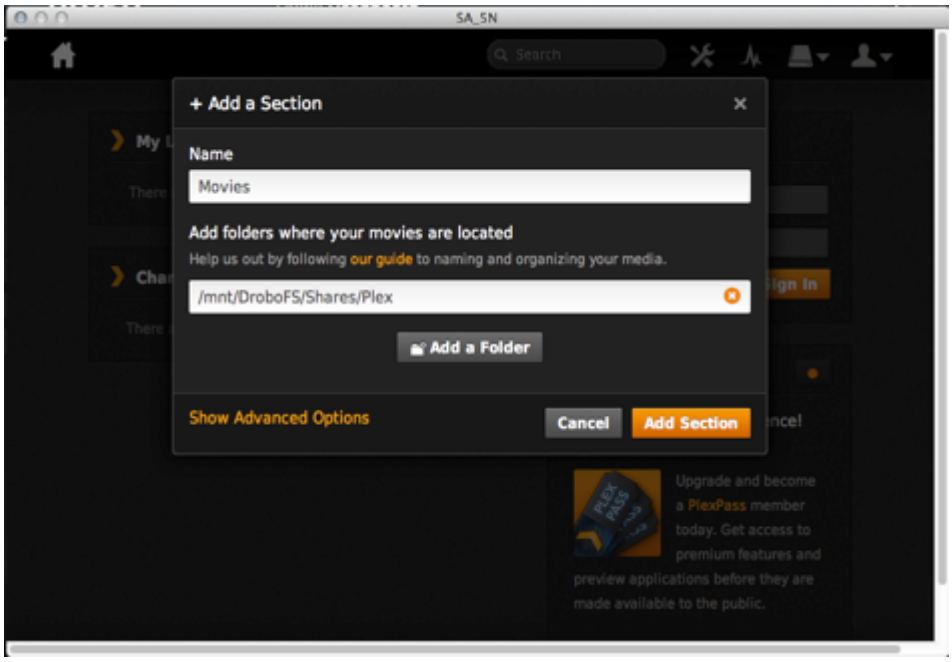
Click **Browse Folders** to navigate to the Plex share.

STEP 7



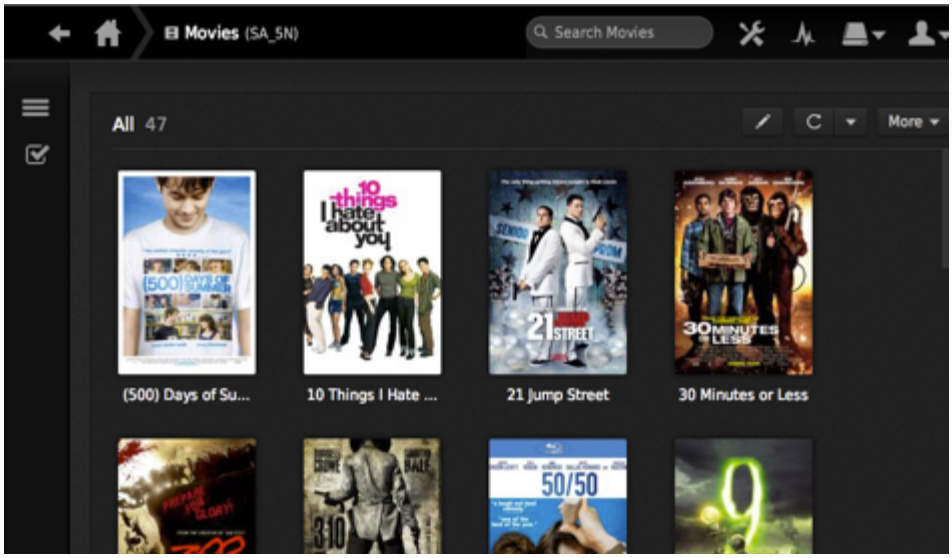
Select the newly created **Plex** share from the list of all shares on the Drobo and click **Add Folder.**

STEP 8


SA_5N
Search
+ Add a Section
Name
Movies
Add folders where your movies are located
Help us out by following our guide to naming and organizing your media.
/mnt/DroboFS/Shares/Plex
Add a Folder
Show Advanced Options
Cancel
Add Section
Upgrade and become a PlexPass member today. Get access to premium features and preview applications before they are made available to the public.

Verify the Section name and path are correct and click **Add Section.**

STEP 9



Plex will now begin indexing the media in the newly created Section.

***NOTE** – Depending on the amount and type of media, the indexing process can take considerable time. As items are processed the interface will automatically update.*

STEP 10

Search
Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy
2004
PG-13
CULT, COMEDY
1 hr 37 min
His news is bigger than your news
DIRECTOR Adam McKay
WRITER Adam McKay, Will Ferrell
CAST Seth Rogen, Danny Trejo, Vince Vaughn
AUDIO Unknown (AC3 5.1)
It's the 1970's and San Diego anchorman Ron Burgundy is the top dog in network TV, which gives way to his freewheeling sexism with his fraternal-like crew. But all that's about to change (or be jeopardized) when ambitious reporter Veronica Corningstone arrives as a new employee at his TV station.
ANCHORMAN
Play
720p
DOLBY DIGITAL
5.1

Select a movie from the list and click **Play** to begin watching the content.

Plex Media Server is now installed and ready to use. While Plex content can be accessed from a web browser, viewing content via the Plex Media Center (outlined in the next section) offers a superior user interface.

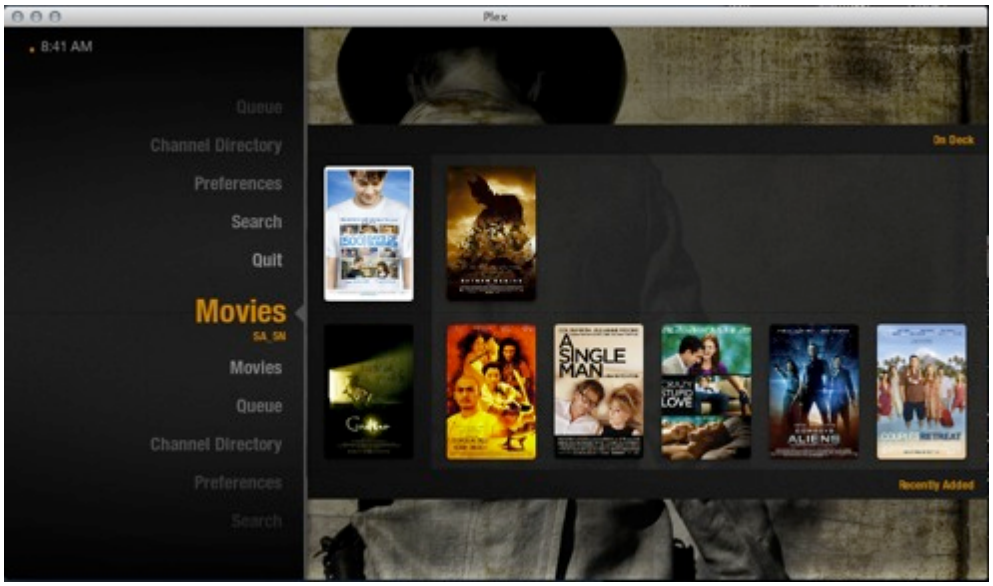
Plex Media Center

Download and install Plex Media Center for the Mac or PC from the URL below.

http://www.plexapp.com/getplex/index.php

NOTE - *Plex Media Server is optimized for a fullscreen user experience on a computer or television. To exit or return to fullscreen mode, press "\" in OSX or "alt-enter" in Windows.*

STEP 1

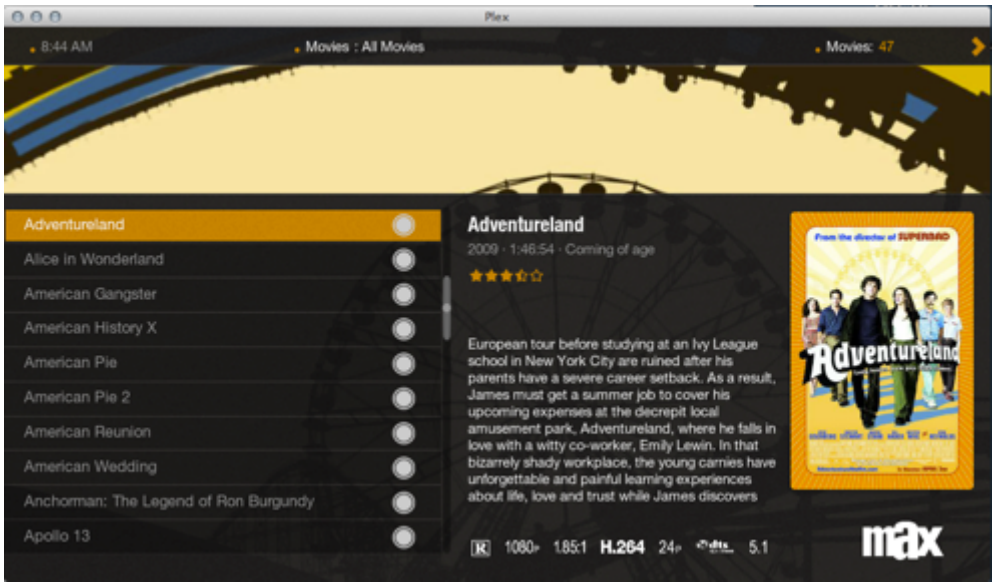


Launch Plex Media Server

Once loaded, the Plex Media Server running on the Drobo will be automatically detected.

Select **Movies** and press **enter**.

STEP 2


Plex
8:44 AM
Movies : All Movies
Movies: 47
Adventureland
Alice in Wonderland
American Gangster
American History X
American Pie
American Pie 2
American Reunion
American Wedding
Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy
Apollo 13
Adventureland
2009 · 1:46:54 · Coming of age
European tour before studying at an Ivy League school in New York City are ruined after his parents have a severe career setback. As a result, James must get a summer job to cover his upcoming expenses at the decrepit local amusement park, Adventureland, where he falls in love with a witty co-worker, Emily Lewin. In that bizarrely shady workplace, the young carnies have unforgettable and painful learning experiences about life, love and trust while James discovers
R 1080p 1.85:1 H.264 24p 5.1
max

Select **All Movies** and press **enter**.

A list of all movie content added to the Plex Media Server in the previous step will be displayed.

Select a movie and press **enter** to begin watching.

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